

INFORMATION SECRET REPORT

COUNTRY Middle East/Great Britain

SUBJECT Greater Syria Plan
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1. Source states that President Quwwatli of Syria asked Muzahim Pachachi, former Prime Minister of Iraq, to serve as a mediator between himself and King 'Abdullah of Transjordan. Quwwatli stated that he was willing to let 'Abdullah achieve his Greater Syria aims, provided that he, Quwwatli, could serve as his vice-regent for the rest of his life. When 'Abdullah refused to discuss the matter with Pachachi, Quwwatli asked Hasan Hakim, friend and supporter of 'Abdullah, to mediate between them. Hakim also was rebuffed by 'Abdullah, who stated that there was no need for mediation between enemies, and that he could achieve his Greater Syria aims without cooperation from Quwwatli. Comment. The same source states that Hashim Atasi, who recently attempted to form a Syrian cabinet, stated that, if Quwwatli and his friends remained in power for another year, Syrians would have to ask 'Abdullah to come in and save Syria from ruin, even though they had no particular liking for 'Abdullah.)

2.

3. Muhsin Barasi, Minister of National Defense in the Khalid Asm government, feels that the Turks are aiding the Greater Syria movement, and that Celal Karaspan, the Turkish Consul in Aleppo, is their chief agent. It is Barasi's personal opinion that the Turks, anxious to secure northern Syria against any possible Soviet invasion, realize that to occupy northern Syria themselves would only

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cause a popular Syrian resistance movement, possibly spearheaded by the Communists, to be directed against them. Therefore, the Turks look upon Greater Syria as the solution to their problem in this area, as they feel that Greater Syria would be a stabilizing influence in northern Syria.

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